

# Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

DECEMBER 2009

## KB4KFT looking forward to a prosperous 2010 for ARC

The holiday season has arrived! As we recuperate from the overeating of Thanksgiving, we prepare for the joys and festivities included in the month of December. November was full of contests, events, and the Lawrenceville Hamfest. This has been a very active year for W4DOC. The club participated in public service events. Our Field Day 2009 operation, held in conjunction with the GA Tech club on campus was a first in many years. The real bonus for all the hard work was having new members joining the club while attending the many events.

The month ahead holds more contests, holiday gatherings, and for those of us who travel, the chance to talk and meet with others outside our local groups. Our holiday gathering on December 2nd at the Pig-n-Chik on Roswell Road will be a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. The night will begin around 7:30PM with fellowship. We ask members to bring a desert to share and W4DOC will provide the prizes. The evening will turn to entertainment, as we draw for the door prizes. You are encouraged to attend our celebration.

I want to thank the ARC Board of Directors, the committee heads, and the members, for your support and energy this past year. I send my best holiday wishes to all of you, and hope that 2010 will bring all of us understanding, opportunity, peace, good health, and a few laughs in this hobby we call Amateur Radio. 73 KB4KFT

**Join us Wed Dec. 2 at the Pig-n-Chik for a holiday gathering!**



*Members of ARC and WERC get ready for a May Foxhunt*

## Johnny Fearon W4WKP SK

Johnny Fearon W4WKP became a Silent Key Friday November 13, 2009. Licensed in the fifties in Atlanta, he became the friend of countless hams over the years. You could always find Johnny surrounded by friends at club meetings and hamfests, near and far. Though not active in recent years, his promotion and interest in our hobby never failed. He remembered names, call signs, contacts, contests, and voices, to the end. He especially enjoyed operating cw on field day, often picking the group to operate with if they were to have bar-b-cue!

Johnny's last two weeks were spent in a care facility in Athens, GA. Management stated that in the entire history of their operation they had never had a guest receive the magnitude of telephone calls checking on him, with calls coming in from all over the country. They asked, "Did they have someone special???"...Those that knew him will certainly answer, YES.

Johnny is survived by his wife of 38 years, Faye (Robin) KA4LPT who tirelessly put up with Johnny's ham radio adventures, and friends over the years.

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## —2009 ARC Executive Committee —

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If you find yourself traveling south from Atlanta to Savannah, you might tune into the Cherry Blossom Intertie Repeater System. A very friendly and very useful resource for the HAM traveler equipped with only a 2m FM mobile radio.

Personally I was able to access this resource from atop 2 of Atlanta's Metro Peaks (Lost Mt & Pine Mt). I tuned into the network at Forsyth (147.315 no tone). It is the furthest north repeater in the intertie family and covers Monroe and parts of Butts and Henry Counties. From the metro peaks I was able to bring the repeaters with ease at only 5 watts and my standard 5/8 comet mounted on my Jeep. Next time, I'll try a HT with an after-market long duckie antenna, no guarantee but the mobile worked so well, I'm optimistic.

Here is a link (<http://www.cherryblossomintertie.net/index.html>) to their excellent site. In the very near future, I will be updating my North Georgia 2m Repeater list to include this fine addition. 73 KI4SGU

## Meetings

### December ARC Holiday Party

Join us at the Pib-n-Chik at 4920 Rowell Road in Sandy Springs Wednesday December 2nd. This is a temporary departure from our first Thursday of the month. We will eat at 7:30PM. The fee for the meal is \$7 per person and \$10 for a family. See you there on Wednesday! Food, Fun, Prizes plus you get to hang out with some cool folks.

## Upcoming Events

### Second Sunday Tech Session

Sunday December 13th 3-6PM  
Peachtree Dekalb Airport - Above the Dekalb Co. Police Precinct Office

## A Sourthen Resource - Cherry Blossom Intertie Repeater System

For more goodies like this, check out <http://ki4sgu.blogspot.com/>

*PS. I'm told there are more repeaters on the network, but are linked only temporarily (during nets, etc), and regrettably I do not have the locations or the frequencies.*

#### Full time links:

**Irwinton:** 147.240 with a 77 pl tone. Irwinton serves as home to the hub repeater which is the distribution system for the intertie system. All repeaters in the intertie are processed here.

**Eastman:** 145.210 with a 103.5 pl tone. Located in the heart of Eastman this repeater serves much of Bleckley and Dodge Counties.

**Wayside:** 145.370 with a 88.5 pl tone. This repeater serves the upper Jones County area including the city of Gray and Juliette.

**Forsyth:** 147.315 no tone. Forsyth is the furthest north repeater in the intertie family and covers Monroe and parts of Butts and Henry Counties.

**Macon:** 145.430 no tone. This repeater has one of the largest footprints of any of the repeaters in the intertie. Coverage is over all of the Central Georgia counties and extends south to around Hawkinsville.

**Laurens:** 145.150 no tone. Located in Laurens County. The repeater offers wide coverage over the entire Dublin, Georgia and surrounding counties.

**Twin City:** 147.000 with a 156.7 pl tone. Located near Statesboro, this is the newest member of the intertie family. The repeater offers wide area coverage.

**Eatonton:** 444.425 with a 186.2 pl tone. Covers the Putnam and surrounding counties.

*The full time repeaters remain linked together most of the time. However, times do exist where the links may be disconnected. This could be a technical issue with the repeater, problems with interference, or other reasons the link may be disconnected. The links are connected again once the problem or interference has subsided.*

## METRO TESTING SESSIONS

### Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm  
2095 W. Broad Street.  
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA  
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

### Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Con-  
tact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK  
(770) 387-1591

### Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months  
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53  
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or  
w9qo@arrl.net Fee \$10  
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

### Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months  
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd  
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP  
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net  
**Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC**  
2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson  
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS  
MURPHY W4OY  
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

### Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and  
the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at  
the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Con-  
tact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

### Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm  
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.  
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA  
(770) 498-7759

### Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am  
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,  
5312 W. Mountain St.  
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN  
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

### Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC  
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Avenue  
Contact: David Still WB4RRD  
wb4rrd@gmail.com

### Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM  
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge #131  
465 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville, GA  
Contact: Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV  
kf4tqv@charter.net

### Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club  
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH  
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

**Sunday Night Net:** All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

## UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

### 9 January 2010

TechFest - Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS)  
<http://www.gars.org> Talk-In: 147.075 (PL 82.5)

### 27 February 2010

Dalton Hamfest - Dalton Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.daltonhamfest.com> Talk-In: 145.230(-) No Tone

### 5 June 2010

ARRL Georgia Section Convention — Atlanta Hamfest  
Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC)  
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

## Barrow Amateur Radio Emergency Services club to host a General Class License class in January

A General Class is forming now for late January 2010. Details are still being finalized for meeting location, class dates and times. The class will meet once a week for 12 weeks. The study/course material will be the ARRL General Class textbook available through the club for \$24.95. Those interested in registering for the class, contact Cal Neff, K4JSR, at (678) 227-3229 or e-mail, [cneff1@windstream.net](mailto:cneff1@windstream.net).

## Georgia D-STAR Receives Grant to Cover State!

Reprinted from  
November 15, 2009 D-Star Newsletter  
For more info: [www.dstarinfo.com](http://www.dstarinfo.com)

The Georgia Department of Homeland Security/Georgia Emergency Management Agency has allocated \$165,000 in Federal funding to build the Georgia Emergency Digital Network. The network will consist of nine fully equipped D-STAR repeaters providing near statewide digital voice and data coverage on Amateur Radio. Two of the D-STAR repeaters are already in operation at Pembroke, Georgia near Savannah and atop Stone Mountain in the Atlanta metro area.

It began in 2005 with a vision for Amateur Radio emergency communications in Georgia. Georgia Public Broadcasting's former Director of Engineering Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC, seized an opportunity to fund and install two Amateur Radio antennas on each of nine tall television towers that provide statewide Public Television coverage as a part of the required conversion to Digital Television. Fehlig designated Georgia ARES to control the use of these facilities for emergency communications and John Davis, WB4QDX, was appointed as District Emergency Coordinator to create a network.

"After considering several technology options and modes for creating a statewide Amateur Radio network, the D-STAR technology made the most sense", Davis said. "D-STAR's simultaneous voice and data capabilities, repeater linking and high speed data transmission brings new

capabilities for emergency communications."

The network is being built utilizing the nine television towers of Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB). These nine towers are strategically located to provide near statewide Public Television coverage. They will also provide similar Amateur Radio coverage from two antennas located between 500 and 600 feet above ground and connected with 1 5/8" transmission lines. GPB will also provide indoor equipment space with protected backup power at each site. Connectivity on GPB's robust DS-3 data network will be provided with Internet access to allow flexible linking of repeaters using the D-STAR

technology.

The funding also provides 20 dual-band D-STAR radios for installation at EMA offices around the state. A portable UHF D-STAR repeater will be constructed for emergency deployment. The complete Georgia DSTAR network should be in operation by early 2010.

The Georgia network will complement other D-STAR systems planned or in operation in neighboring states of Alabama, Florida and South Carolina creating regional capabilities in the Southeast. Weather systems approach Georgia either as severe thunderstorms and tornadoes from the West or tropical systems from the Gulf or the Atlantic. Having

### ATLANTA RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

#### D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B  
1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

#### D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B  
1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

### The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline, designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!

PO Box 84107  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107  
USA

(225) 757-1545 Phone  
225-208-1545 Fax

Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN





## Now You Know!: US Call Signs Not Issued by the FCC

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized stations in Japan.

KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole.

KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.

KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).

KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).

KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more on the FCC's Web site. Now you know!



*The Amateur Radio station at Gitmo. [Photo courtesy of Chuck Harding, N8CH/KG4NW]*

## 25, 50, 75 Years Ago

### What were we doing way back when?

#### 1954 (55 years ago)

December meeting announcement: "By special arrangements with the Southern Bell Telephone Company, we will have a guest speaker, and a film strip on Communications in Civil Defense work. The film, recently presented at a meeting of the Confederate Signal Corps, comes highly recommended. "To many of the hams already in this vital work, the film should be very educational, and to those who have not yet "jined up" we hope that this will help convince them that the work is immensely important."

#### 1992 (17 years ago)

Jud Watley describes his HF mobile setup: "Lately, I've been longing for the days when I operated on HF mobile primarily using a Heath HW-22A 40 meter SSB transceiver. That was fun! Long trips were pleasant because they became rag-chewing sessions, and before you knew it you were at your destination. Then I switched to 2-meter FM, and it was very different in those early days. People were always anxious to talk to mobile stations traveling through their cities and towns, Things have changed a log since then so I thought

I'd get back on HF mobile."

#### 1998 (11 years ago)

ARC President Bill Bass, W4LFC writes: "Thanks to Jim Stafford, W4QO for an excellent program and a look at the MATPARC mobile communications van. the CW demo using a laserbeam was unique (who would have thought of modulating it with the blades of a small fan). And, with dual air conditioners and dual 6,500 watt generators, the van has some unique capabilities too. With one of its antennas raised and generator humming, it was an impressive sight."

John Talipsky N3ACK  
The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.  
385 Madison Chase Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

## MEETING NOTICE - WEDNESDAY DEC 2, 2009



**TH F6A**



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate **EVERY DAY!** The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

**KENWOOD**  
Listen to the Future